

REMARKS

Claims 1-31 and 33-35 are now pending in the application. Applicants respectfully traverse and request reconsideration.

As an initial matter, Applicants' attorney wishes to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the telephone conference on April 3, 2007. Applicants thank the Examiner for notice that claims 29-31 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if written in independent form to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As to claims 28, 34, and 35, the claims require, among other things, configuring registers, as opposed to writing data value to the registers. In particular, for example, claim 34 includes a configurable register that includes configured register logic in at least one register flop and at least one masked value that generates a masked bit for the configuration logic. The configuration logic configures at least one register flop to be read and/or writable based on the at least one masked value. The claims are directed to configuring a register, as opposed to a post-configuration operation. The Office Action states that "this claim language makes clear that the mask value is used to screen out or let through (i.e., read and/or write) certain bits in the data value." (Response to Arguments section, page 2.) However, this is not what the claim language states. The claim language is not directed to screening out or letting through data bits in a data value, which is a different operation, namely, a post-configuration operation and the screening or letting through of data bits in a register. In contrast, Applicants are claiming the configuration operation, not a post-configuration operation, and instead are dealing with using mask values in the configuration of the registers to be readable or writable independent of any data values that are stored therein.

Also by way of example, the claim language itself requires that the method (for example, see claim 35) requires conforming configurable registers by forming at least one register flop of the configurable registers to be readable and/or writable based on at least one mask value. Again, this operation configures a register flop to be readable or writable independent of any data values stored therein. The interpretation and rejection dealing with claim language not present in Applicants' claim is believed to be improper. Screening out or letting through certain bits in a data value as alleged in the Office Action is, as noted above, a post-configuration operation and merely allows access to bits in the data value or bits in the register but are not used to configure the register to be readable or writable. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Also, with regard to claim 1, the Examiner admits that Gillespie fails to show, teach, or suggest the data bridge having a read only memory for storing at least initial values and mask values for each ASIC of the plurality of ASICs.

The Examiner suggests that it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Gillespie and Surugucchi et al. to render the data bridge having a read only memory for storing mask values for each ASIC of the plurality of ASICs in order to consolidate configuration. However, Surugucchi et al. explicitly teach that the BASS control logic unit updates the registers in the second configuration register space (which includes the BASS 1 memory mask) with the values in the first configuration space when the values in the first configuration space are set and/or modified. (See column 8, lines 47-51.) Therefore, Surugucchi et al. explicitly teach away from using a read only memory for storing mask values because the BASS control logic would not be able to update a read only memory. Accordingly, it would not be obvious for one skilled in the art to combine the teachings of Gillespie and

Surugucchi et al. to render the data bridge having a read only memory for storing mask values for each ASIC of the plurality of ASICs in order to consolidate configuration.

Venkat fails to cure the deficient teachings of Gillespie and Surugucchi et al. As best understood by Applicants, Venkat discloses a bus interface device for interfacing a secondary peripheral bus with a system having a host CPU and a primary peripheral bus. The bus interface of Venkat enables "virtual integration" of multiple physically distinct peripheral devices so that the collection of devices can function as a single integrated unit. The "virtually integrated" devices can share resources such as a dedicated bus, memory space, and memory bandwidth just as if the devices were physically integrated. An intelligent device configuration process and a dynamic internal memory map allow each peripheral device to be independently added to the system, removed from the system, or upgraded just as if each device was a completely separate peripheral. The bus interface provides a dedicated secondary bus that enables multimedia and graphics bus traffic to be isolated from the CPU's primary peripheral bus. Applicants can find no mention of data bridge having a read only memory for storing mask values for each ASIC of the plurality of ASICs. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claim 10 is allowable for at least similar reasons as claim 1. For example, the references do not teach or suggest forming configurable registers as claimed. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 10 is respectfully requested.

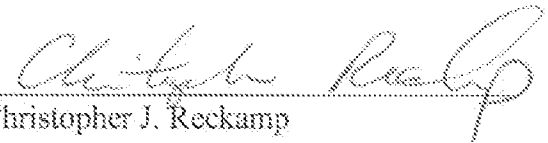
Claims 2-9, 11-18, and 34-35 each ultimately depend on claims 1 and 10 and are allowable for at least similar reasons. Claims 2-9, 11-18, and 34-35 are also believed to be allowable for having novel and non-obvious subject matter. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2-9, 11-18, and 34-35 is respectfully requested.

Claim 35 is allowable for at least similar reasons as claim 28. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claim 35 is respectfully requested.

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (312) 609-7599.

Respectfully submitted,

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